

This bill will spur even greater innovation than we already see at the local level in dealing with growth and urban sprawl issues. The flexibility of this proposal creates many opportunities in an often limiting system to raise funding for land purchases. We simply want to give communities a system that is entirely local driven, unlike that currently offered by the Federal government. The most dynamic aspect of this bill is that it restores to local governments the power to influence the future of their communities.

The Community Open Space Bonds Act can help respond to the need to protecting our beautiful lands and precious water supply, and I strongly urge my colleagues to join in this fight against the raging war of time. Action must be taken now, so that our children will enjoy the natural wonders we have come to love.

HOLD UP OF FINAL PASSAGE OF THE MISSING, EXPLOITED AND RUNAWAY CHILDREN PROTECTION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as I stand here today, we are hours away from beginning a month long recess and we have yet to reauthorize a critically important piece of legislation that protects our nation's youth. It has been over two months since both the House and Senate have passed S. 249, The Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children Protection Act, and we have still not voted on final passage.

There is no good excuse for why the Senate has not passed and sent to the President this noncontroversial piece of legislation. I had some minor concerns with the House amended version of S. 249, but after receiving some clarification and assurances on these concerns, I decided that these House add-on could be dealt with at later time and should not keep this important piece of legislation from passing. I have cleared the differences on our side of the aisle, but I am afraid I cannot say the same for my colleagues on the other side who continue to hold up final passage of this bill.

The Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act of 1999 reauthorizes programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and authorizes funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Both programs are critical to our nation's youth and to our nation's well-being.

In addition to providing shelter for children in need, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act ensures that these children and their families have access to important services, such as individual, family or group counseling, alcohol and drug counseling and a myriad of other resources to help these young people and their families get back on track. As the National Network for Youth as stressed, the Act's programs "provide critical assistance to youth in high-risk situations all over the country."

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children provide extremely worthwhile and effective assistance to children and families facing crises across the U.S. and around the world. In 1998, the National Center helped law enforcement officers locate over 5,000 missing children. The National Center serves a critical role as a clearinghouse of resources and information for both family members and law enforcement officers. They have developed a network of hotels and restaurants which provides free services to parents in search of their children and have also developed extensive training programs.

S. 249 should be passed today. There is absolutely no reason to stall on this legislation, but as we get down to the wire to begin August recess, it looks like we will once again face another delay. We will return to our states and to our constituents who run these crucial programs and we will be unable to tell them that we have protected the programs that allow them to ensure children and families access to their services by reauthorizing the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. I am frustrated once again at the inaction of the Republican majority on this matter and believe that The Missing Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act should be passed immediately.

INCREASING SATELLITE AND CABLE COMPETITION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, more than 3 years ago, I started raising serious concerns about the need to increase competition between cable and satellite TV providers and the need to allow satellite dish owners to receive local network stations. I felt then, and I feel now, that the best way to reduce the cable and satellite rate increases and to protect satellite dish owners is to have satellite television compete on a level playing field with cable.

I was thus very pleased when, finally, on May 20, the Senate passed a bill that I sponsored, without objection, which protects satellite dish owners and would offer them more television stations. I worked on this bill with the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator HATCH, and several other Senators.

The bill would restore satellite TV service to those who lost it, and it would prevent thousands of additional cutoffs.

Also, over time, it would permit satellite carriers to offer many more stations to home satellite dish owners. Unfortunately, even though the Senate passed the bill on May 20, we have been unable to set up a Conference with the other chamber. On June 8, the Senate approved the list of Senators—the Conferees—to negotiate the final bill with the House of Representatives.

The August recess is about to start. Thousands of Vermonters, and I am one of them, will continue to get minimal TV service because this bill was not able to be presented to the Presi-

dent for signature. I want to assure Vermonters that I will continue to work to get this bill before the President.

I also have been meeting with satellite company officials representing companies that will be able to offer a whole range of local stations, movie channels, sports, weather, history, PBS, superstations, and the like, to Vermonters via satellite. I want to make sure that Vermonters will be offered the full range of TV service over satellite once we can negotiate the final bill.

I am in the same situation as many Vermonters. At my home in Middlesex, Vermont, I only receive one local network channel clearly with my rooftop antenna.

I was very worried three years ago that satellite dish owners would start losing their ability to receive distant network signals. Unfortunately, my fears have come to pass. Many other Members of Congress have also been concerned about this issue.

The Satellite Home Viewers Improvement Act, S. 247, which I sponsored with the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator HATCH, the Chairman of the Commerce Committee, Senator MCCAIN, the ranking member of our antitrust subcommittee, Senator KOHL, and the Majority Leader of the Senate, Senator LOTT, offered the way to promote head-to-head competition between cable and satellite providers—and lower rates and provide more services for consumers.

In November of 1997, we held a full Committee hearing on satellite issues. I agreed with Chairman HATCH to work together on a bill to try to avoid needless cutoffs of satellite TV service while, at the same time, working to protect the local affiliate broadcast system and increase competition.

In March of last year we introduced a bill but were unable to get it to the President for signature. That version was reported out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously on October 1, 1998. That bill, as with the bill I am trying to get to the President's desk this year, was also designed to permit local TV signals, as opposed to distant out-of-state network signals, to be offered to viewers via satellite; to increase competition between cable and satellite TV providers; to provide more PBS programming by also offering a national feed as well as local programming; and to reduce rates charged to consumers.

In the midst of all these legislative efforts, a federal district court judge in Florida found that PrimeTime 24 was offering distant CBS and Fox television signals to more than one million households in the U.S. in a manner inconsistent with its compulsory license that allows them to offer distant network signals. This development further complicated the situation.

Under a preliminary injunction, the satellite service of CBS and Fox networks was to be terminated on October

8, 1998 for thousands of households in Vermont and other states who had signed up after March 11, 1997, the date the action was filed.

I was pleased that we worked together in the Senate Judiciary Committee to avoid these immediate cut-offs of satellite TV service in Vermont and other states. The parties agreed to request an extension which was granted until February 28, 1999. This extension was also designed to give the FCC time to address this problem faced by satellite dish owners.

In December, I sent a comment to the FCC and criticized their proposals on how to define the "white area"—the area not included in either the Grade A or Grade B signal intensity areas. My view was that the FCC proposal would cut off households from receiving distant signals based on "unwarranted assumptions" in a manner inconsistent with the law and the clear intent of the Congress. I complained about entire towns in Vermont which were to be inappropriately cut off when no one could receive signals over the air.

The Florida district court filed a final order which also required that households signed up for satellite service before March 11, 1997, be subject to termination of CBS and Fox distant signals on April 30, 1999, if they lived in areas where they are likely to receive a grade B intensity signal and are unable to get the local CBS or Fox affiliate to consent to receipt of the distant signal.

In the meantime, further Court and other developments have resulted in cutoffs of thousands of satellite dish owners. This situation is unacceptable, and I will continue to work to fix this problem.

END THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN KOSOVO

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the news out of Kosovo concerning the commission of atrocities against Serbs and Gypsies is deeply troubling.

According to a report released on Tuesday by Human Rights Watch "for the province's minorities, and especially the Serb and Roma (Gypsy) populations, as well as some ethnic populations perceived as collaborators or as political opponents of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), these changes have brought fear, uncertainty, and in some cases violence." The report adds that "The intent behind many of the killings and abductions that have occurred in the province since early June appears to be the expulsion of Kosovo's Serb and Roma population rather than a desire for revenge alone."

Mr. President, the massive atrocities committed against the ethnic Albanian population of Kosovo pursuant to Slobodan Milosevic's ethnic cleansing policy have been appropriately condemned by the international community. The United States and our NATO allies have invested a great deal of resources and put their sons and daughters at risk to stop the atrocities and

to reverse the ethnic cleansing. But they did not do so to allow the former victims to commit atrocities against or seek to ethnically cleanse the Serbs and Gypsies.

When I visited Kosovo in the first week of July along with Senators REED, LANDRIEU and SESSIONS, we met with Hashim Thaci, political leader of the KLA and Colonel Agim Ceku, the KLA military commander. We condemned the violence being perpetrated against the Serbs and asked them to speak out against the mistreatment of the Serbs. They stated to us they have publicly called for the Serbs to stay and for those who have left to return provided they had not previously committed atrocities.

Mr. President, words are important but deeds are more important. I realize that the KLA is not a highly-disciplined organization and that there are extremists within the KLA who do not answer to either Mr. Thaci or Colonel Ceku. I also realize that not all those who are presently committing atrocities are members of the KLA. But Mr. Thaci and Colonel Ceku and other Albanian leaders must do more to bring an end to the cycle of violence in Kosovo.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 164,000 Serbs have left Kosovo during the seven weeks since Yugoslav and Serb forces withdrew and KFOR entered Kosovo, and the number continues to rise. The military troops of the NATO-led KFOR are not trained to be policemen and the enforcement of day-to-day law and order is not and should not be their mission. The United Nations has only deployed about 400 civilian police to Kosovo. The deployment of the international civilian police force to Kosovo must be accelerated. The cycle of violence in Kosovo must stop.

I visited with the ethnic Albanian refugees in the camps in Macedonia and was sickened at their horrific stories of their mistreatment at the hands of the Serbs. I was a strong supporter of the NATO air campaign against Serbia and of the deployment of the NATO-led KFOR. I support the reconstruction of Kosovo and the creation of an autonomous multi-ethnic Kosovo. But none of us, no matter what position we took on other issues involved in NATO's action in Kosovo, can accept criminal acts against Serbs and Gypsies in Kosovo.

President Clinton and the leaders of our NATO allies won the support of their citizens for the NATO air campaign and subsequent peacekeeping mission in part because it was the humane thing to do. Americans and Europeans alike were deeply upset at the plight of the ethnic Albanian refugees. That support will dissipate if the cycle of violence in Kosovo does not stop.

I call on NATO, the United Nations, the leaders of the ethnic Albanian community in Kosovo, particularly Mr. Thaci and Colonel Ceku, and the law abiding citizens of Kosovo, to act and

act now to show their rejection of lawlessness and violence. The cycle of violence must stop.

PESTICIDES AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this week, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the first major steps under the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 to protect children from overexposure to two widely used pesticides. Organophosphate chemicals, such as these two pesticides, kill insects by disrupting nerve impulses. Unfortunately, these chemicals have the same effect on humans, and children are especially vulnerable because of their developing bodies and the high proportion of fruits and vegetables in their diets. Effective protection against these two pesticides is an important step in implementing the Act as Congress intended.

These steps by EPA to comply with the law are critical to ensure the health and safety of the nation's children. These actions are welcome, and EPA must continue to carry out its important mission to assess tolerance levels for pesticides that pose the highest risks to children. Much work remains to be done.

Timely and complete implementation of the Act is essential, but we need to know more to assure that all children are protected from the harmful effects of pesticides. I have asked the General Accounting Office to evaluate the technologies used to assess immune, reproductive, endocrine, and neurotoxic effects of pesticides on children. GAO will also report on current research on links between pesticides and child health and disease. In particular, I have asked the GAO to evaluate whether the Act is being implemented adequately to protect the health and safety of the nation's children.

Our children are our greatest natural resource. The goal in passing the Act was to set a strong public health standard to protect them, and EPA has a clear responsibility to implement the Act in accord with that standard.

LET'S SEEK BALANCE IN REFUGEE FUNDING

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to bring my colleagues' attention to the plight of refugees in Africa. Just last week we have been reminded yet again of the disparity in the resources provided to assist those in need on the African continent compared to those in Europe. At a briefing to the U.N. Security Council on July 26, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata outlined some of the desperate problems facing the over 1.5 million refugees the agency currently counts in Africa. These problems are aggravated by a serious shortfall in international funding for UN refugee efforts. By some accounts, only 60% of the UNHCR's \$137